

SIXTY-FIFTH YEAR—NO. 40

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1942

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## High School Team To Play Plymouth

Birmingham's once defeated Maples will meet Plymouth High School's basketball team next Tuesday evening at Baldwin High School.

The Maroons' lone defeat was at the hands of a star-studded Alumni squad that included some college players.

Birmingham has defeated Ypsilanti, Walled Lake and Lincoln Park so far this season.

Last year the Maples defeated Plymouth 37-30.

The reserve team game will start at 7 p. m. and will be followed by the varsity clash at 8 p. m.



## HEADS SWISS

New president of Switzerland for 1943 is Dr. Enrico Celio. He is a member of the Federal Council, which consists of seven men, elected for a four-year term and automatically re-elected at the end of each term. Having served for a year as vice president, Dr. Celio automatically becomes the new president and a new vice president is chosen from the council.

A third American party is always being promoted, but it never graduates. — Norfolk Virginian Pilot

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## Bits of Birmingham

Looking ahead to the new year, every newspaper writer hopes to take part in having the biggest story of this generation—an Armistice.

Victor Ulrich, the music man, was in a local store the other day and had just secured a pound of butter which he placed in his shopping buggy. However, Vic, a trust-no-one-other item on the shelves—well, you can guess the rest! Someone else decided that he needed the butter worse than Vic.

A story somewhat similar occurred in a store which possessed a pound of coffee in the bean. She took it to the store to have it ground and to her chagrin the coffee disappeared when she was not looking.

Mrs. Josephine Setzer, who lives near Birmingham, has been awarded a divorce from Howard Setzer. Russell Davis, of Clawson has secured a divorce decree from Margaret Davis.

Shorty White, a policeman over the Orchard Lakes, was in a friend's house a couple of days before Christmas, and at the time, the Christmas tree, and had just mixed up a big bowl of snow froth to simulate snow. Shorty happened to be alone in the kitchen when he saw that dish of frothy white and he said to himself, "Aha! whumped cream!" A big spoonful soon convinced him of the mistake.

Which reminds us of the Birmingham man who went to the box for a snack and enjoyed a couple slices of canned meat which turned out to be dogfood.

Feeding dogs and cats is now somewhat of a problem, for as everybody knows, you can't buy cheap meat anymore at these prices. Inexpensive canned fish has been used as a substitute, but that, too, will soon disappear when the canner uses up his supply of cans. It is beginning to look as though hampered pets will have to scrounge for gook or hungry.

Are you getting tired of scrap drives, bond ballions, donation campaigns and the rest of it? Many of us are; on the other hand, our soldiers in North Africa, the Southwest Pacific and many other localities throughout the globe are pretty tired of the dirt and misery which are a part of soldiering. But they aren't complaining and why should we?

The motor transport division of the ODT has set up a branch office in the Chamber of Commerce, Waldron Hotel, Pontiac. Operators of commercial cars may file their appeals there if they want to take such action.

A letter, delayed in transit, was sent to Santa Claus by the children of Mr. and Mrs. Emil G. Szabo, 152 Hawthorne. While a little late for Christmas, the letter will perhaps help Mr. Claus next year.

"Dear Santa, I don't want much. Just a mother and daughter doll and a doll house and a doll buggy. My 2 little sisters and I don't love from Pat and Sharon and Judy Szabo to Santa. P. S. We may be sure for the poor children, be sure to get them when you come to my house and take them to give the other children. Thank you. Love from us again."

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Roundy have moved from 2858 Buckinghams to 4759 Bridge road, Otter Lake, Mich. In writing us to have their subscription changed, Mrs. Roundy said, "We have bought a dairy farm and now that we are having butter situation in Birmingham. Maybe we can go out and talk to the cows and they'll see that Birmingham folks are taken care of!"

Lt. Delpe Service, of the police department, is just back after taking his vacation. One of the things he did to keep himself busy was to drive a new Army truck to Philadelphia. He, Arthur Kitehen and another friend made the trip.

Lester J. Eastman, 1905 West 14-Mile road, laid down his wallet while at Sieral's gas station the other day. He went away and forgot it on his return—no wallet. He suspects "some kid" but doesn't know his name. The billfold contained money and his "A" and "C" coupon books.

Last week three local boys were among the 28 of M. from men named to the honor society for good scholarship. Such a heavy representation speaks well for the local lads.

The C. Hamiltons, 616 Partan, were routed Sunday morning when their refrigerator let loose the gas. Two policemen and two firemen took off the top unit and carried it outside.

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## Alleman Reviews Some High Spots Of A Busy Year

By GENE ALLEMAN  
Michigan Press Association

Thursday marks completion of our first year of World War II. The news parade of 1942 in Michigan might be summed up as follows:

Pearl Harbor angered us; Singapore shocked us. We tightened our belts in preparation for hardships. We witnessed the gradual conversion of Michigan automobile plants to war production. We waved goodbye to more Michigan boys in 1942 than the total of those who were called to serve during World War I. Mother and Dad took Red Cross training, air raid duty.

Our farms blessed us with bountiful harvests.

The summer tourist season, contrary to fears, proved to be surprisingly good in the lower peninsula, only fair in the upper peninsula.

Retailers struggled with price ceilings; consumers stood in lines for sugar coupons.

Michigan's political campaign, never eclipsed by war interest, was tame. Harry F. Kelly, secretary of state, was unopposed for Republican nomination for governor. The pendulum swung in November, and Democrats Prentiss M. Brown and Murray D. Van Wageningen were swept out of office in a Republican landslide.

History consists of events foreseen and unforeseen.

Few events of 1942 were as startling, in retrospect, as the stopping of the automobile assembly line and manufacturing of passenger cars and trucks and a hurried conversion to all-out war production.

That, above all, "would not happen" so we had been assured by authority of Alfred P. Sloan, chairman of the General Motors Corporation. Mr. Sloan had said that war requirements could not be met by the automobile companies as an additional load on their civilian output. But an American admiral had said we Americans could lick the dirty Japs "any Thursday morning."

Remember how we were stultified and then angered by the Japanese treachery at Pearl Harbor. And didn't the radio commentators tell us that an American admiral had said we Americans could lick the dirty Japs "any Thursday morning?"

Of course, we thought, it would be a mere sideshow to the Nazi cleanup.

Then came Singapore: the smother of Japs down the Malaya peninsula. Then came an "unpronounceable" British fortress of the Orient.

Michigan and Malaya were linked in economic significance. Rubber trees! And that carried us back to the hand-and-buggy customers of grandfather's day—all because of Singapore in 1942.

Michigan newspapers carried news items daily of the sinking of American freighters and tankers off the Atlantic coast, victims of enemy submarines.

Next came a shortage of sugar. Sugar and tire rationing were introduced in April. Pontiac experimented with the "car club" idea for sharing transportation. On May 18 came another step in war reorganization, the arrival of price ceilings on thousands upon thousands of articles of merchandise.

Retailers struggled with questionnaires and reports. Some were apprehensive of Washington snooters and consumer retaliation. Many citizens had misgivings that social reform, not inflation, was the goal of the national planners.

Newspapers began to shrink slowly in size, as automobile and tire and radio advertising dropped to a mere dribble.

Simultaneously, people, hungry for news, sought substitutes.

(See Alleman, Page 4)



IT HAS BEEN OUR PRIVILEGE to serve the people of this area in many ways during the past year, to have enjoyed their friendships and patronage. And for this consideration we are truly grateful.

We extend our greetings together with the wish that the New Year will be one of Health, Happiness and Prosperity.

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Some one owes Miss Marjorie Unger, 820 Bloomfield Court, a new fender for her automobile. She was parked in the A & P lot on the afternoon of Dec. 24, and discovered that in her absence, some one had ruined a fender. So, there must be some one whose conscience is bothering him or her, and it's still not too late to come forward with a check.

The rain and thaw over the weekend was tough on the streets. Bad holes were reported on Ruffner, Holland and Hazelwood.

Mrs. Edward Behne, 977 Brookwood court, was in a friend's house Dec. 26 when she smelled smoke. Firemen found nothing more serious than a broken smoke pipe from an oil hot water heater.

Dr. Edwin Deer had a small fire in his office in the Theatre Building last Saturday afternoon. A busburner burned a hole in a partition.

James Elder, 1206 Davis street, found a howling ball dog, shoes on Davis street last Thursday.

Last Saturday was certainly the Wanders' last. They were seen in the streets of Birmingham were practically deserted. The banks were doing a desultory business, most of the stores were closed. Mail men in the business section had to bring back money for the Old Eclectic staff was busy, however, until noon.

Several weeks' accumulation of snow melted fast when it started to rain. Some roads in the flat areas near the City were under water in spots. Greenfield and Northwestern were closed for a time.

A group of young people who belong to what they call a "lunch club" includes one lad who is said to be very, very fickle. So, they asked this Wanderer to issue the following "want-ad": "Wanted: one reliable, domestic-type blonde or brunette able to cope with William H. B. 'til death do them part. Rush-order! The Luncheon Club."

At the police station Monday, we received the report of a 75-mile shell in which a Beverly Hills had brought in. It was fished out of the St. Clair River. The driver, who was wanted to make a lane out of it, and "would get, Springfield undisturbed." So, if we are obliged to run Sgt. Springfield's ordinary you will know what happened.

Murray E. Nichol, 636 Purdue street, reported to police early Saturday morning that he had found a "C-2" gasoline book issue of Mary M. Good, 18270 Beakshire.

Jimmy Goldsmith, who also went by the name of Benson, was arrested here last Friday as he arrived on a bus. His "accident" for failure to complete his draft questionnaire and for failure to notify the draft board of a change in address. Goldsmith, who is colored, was turned over to the FBI.

Miss Laura M. Donnelly, 608 Oak street, has been throwing snowballs at her house.

More on the same subject: F. L. Kinsmen, 815 Southfield, was driving on East street on the last Thursday when six boys throwing snowballs broke the windshield of his car. Patrolman Edgar Carlsson picked up the six and they agreed to "say for the glass."

Several drivers have been greatly perturbed by children who used their sleds in the street. Mrs. Louis Hasell nearly hit a youngster who slid out of a driveway on Hamilton street. Another driver who would not give her name phoned police about the kids on Smith.

Friday at 6 a. m., Harold M. McDonald, of 2936 Robson, Detroit, was driving north on Huger street when he ran off the road and hit a telephone pole on East Maple avenue. Apparently he fell asleep, although the police report did not say so.

After Dec. 22, the days get longer, theoretically; but this Wanderer believes that Monday and Tuesday morning were the darkest of the year. At 9 a. m., cars were still driving about with lights.

Incidentally, a surprising how "scotch" some people are with regard to using their auto lights. This Wanderer figures that use of "parking" lights in twilight and during daytime haziness is good for everyone. They may help some other driver "see" him, a few seconds earlier than otherwise, and thus prevent a mishap.

Last week this column carried the suggestion that people feed the phossagens, with the result that a phone call came from one who identified herself as a "farmer's wife." She said: "Why don't these sportsmen who worry about the phossagens get out and scatter some food themselves? They usually expect the property owner to look after the birds."

Last Monday was "Father and Son Day" at the Birmingham Rotary Club. Some members, not having sons, brought the sons of other local people; included in this list was Elmer C. Huston, well known Birmingham business man. But when it came time to depart, after the fellows had looked high and even looked low—but the fact remained that Elmer was about to face the out-of-doors temperature without a hat. One of the livers in— even for his somewhat barren—wounded head. In this case, Elmer's "Dad" his wooden stocking can't taste "in all. So, if you saw Elmer, after the club meeting Monday with such a hat on his head, you'll know that his return to boyhood was only for a few minutes. Such is the willing sacrifice childhood—childhood with its abundance of tousled hair to keep away the cold.

The Birmingham Theatre will show Walt Disney's "Dumbo" when the present program completes its run.

This Wanderer has heard rumors of a black market in coffee and a racket in butter. With regard to the first, in a certain store it is said to save butter for certain nations who give her generous donations. It is being done without the store owner's knowledge, of course.

Last week, The Eclectic carried a story about a youth who violated gasoline rationing rules on the 10th. Detroit confiscated his coupons and released him to the custody of his father.

N. E. Graham, 910 Fairfax, last Monday night, was in his porch when he saw a bag of groceries, a snowshovel and even the doorman.

Herbert Seidelman, science teacher at Cranbrook, has applied for a commission in the Navy and has gone to Philadelphia.

The Community House declared a divided this week by serving chicken to the service clubs.

Police were called on a complaint from a neighbor living on Edgewood, aged 10 and 11. Two other boys slapped them and led the pair to their biggest tires. Officers talked with their parents, unable to find the boys readily. This Wanderer has noticed the name of one of these boys in the police record several times, and the names of juveniles exceed traffic violations, this particular case doesn't seem to deserve much consideration in the future.

Mrs. Mary Rigden, 1380 Waters park, was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital Monday night suffering from a head injury. Police are investigating.

The City Commission had another super-short meeting Monday night.

James W. Parry, who for 10 years prior to 1936 was village and town manager here, is stepping off the Michigan Municipal League and is with General Motors, going to Lima, Ohio, where he will train 3,000 persons at a GM supply depot. Once previously he was an engineer with GM.

A reader phones to say: "Boy I wish the police would crack down on the people who double park. I've seen a half dozen cars held up in the jam—think of the gasoline wasted!"

Mrs. Virginia Taylor has been given a divorce decree from Redger Taylor.

A most unusual occurrence took place in one of the City's larger churches last Sunday morning. In the midst of the pastoral prayer, a young man rushed forward with a repentant story on his lips. The pastor and the congregation prayed with him, and the regular service continued. This Wanderer reports the matter not in a spirit of levity, but most respectfully.

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